

THE GREAT LILLIPUTIAN WEDDING.

For some weeks past the public mind of the great metropolis has been considerably stirred by the announcement that a wedding was on the tapis between Charles S. Stratton, better known as "General Tom Thumb" and Miss Lavinia Bump, known however, by the more euphonious name of "Lavinia Warren." Lemuel Gulliver in all his peregrinations never saw a more curious pair, and the whole world has never witnessed a marriage ceremony more novel or extraordinary. This little pair came together under the managerial strategy of the renowned showman, P. T. Barnum; and gossip will have it that the moment their tiny eyes first gazed into each other, a warm and loving affection at once sprung up, and the General, perceiving that his hour had come, when, if ever he could realize—

"That only bliss of Paradise which has survived the fall," entered at once upon the pleasing duty of offering his heart and hand, which were both eagerly accepted; and from that hour he regarded himself as no longer a fair little bachelor destined to pine away and die in cold neglect, but would henceforth assume the dignity of a family man, with "buds of promise" opening before him. Like full grown lovers each of them "sighed like a furnace," and worked as industriously as two beavers to bring their affections into the legal crucible to be molded into unity for life, just as speedily as money and labor could bring this happy event to pass. Elaborate and costly toilets were prepared, expensive jewels were purchased, and an extensive retinue of clerical gentlemen were set to work to arrange for the nuptial ceremonies. On the 10th inst. the General, with his tiny bride and a host of attendants, walked up the aisle of Grace Church, under the inspiring strains of the organ, as it peeled forth the "Grand March of Tannhauser," and in the presence of a brilliant assemblage of invited guests, were solemnly made "man and wife" by the Episcopal form. After the close of the grand ceremonies, the gay couple returned to their headquarters at one of the most fashionable hotels, and then received the congratulations of that branch of city society which is sometimes designated as the "cream," but better known as the "codfish aristocracy." Ministers, Generals, Editors, Doctors, Lawyers, Bankers, and their wives were on hand, vying with each other in doing homage to the happy pair, to a degree that might flatter the vanity and excite the pride of an Emperor. The immediate attendants of the bride and groom at the hymenial altar were the renowned Commodore Nutt the miniature man, and Miss Minnie Warren, the bride's sister, who is a perfect little fairy of sixteen years. It is thought even possible that ere this she has struck a chord in the Commodore's generous heart; he is altogether the nicest little chap of his age. Upon the table in the reception room we noticed a case of gorgeous bridal presents; while on the outside of the hotel was the "great unwashed"—intensely peering into every door, window and stone of the hotel, with an intensified curiosity that would seem almost to penetrate to the most sacred apartment.

Stratton, the bridegroom, is a native of Bridgeport, Conn., and is now 25 years old. According to a biography now before us, he is but 32 inches high and weighs 33 pounds. He has traveled extensively, and feels at home wherever night overtakes him. He is said to own a mammoth residence in Bridgeport, which his wife declares not to be suited to her taste at all, and that she must have a nice snug cottage, and furthermore that she will be mistress of her own house. He has also accumulated a handsome fortune, owns a yacht, is fond of sports, and is withal very careful of his money. Mrs. Stratton, his wife, is a native of Massachusetts, of respectable parentage, and is now 21 years old; she is 32 inches in height, weighs 30 pounds, is well developed, and on the whole a very nice little woman—not lacking in solid good sense. The parties have known each other for a few weeks only, and we believe it is a fact that the General popped the question on the first time that he found himself left alone in company with the lady.

It is generally admitted, we believe, that these little people have as good a right to marry as the larger folks—as to the policy of such a match it is too late to offer advice. Suffice it to say that, though they are unquestionably the smallest married pair of hu-

man beings on earth, they have created an immense sensation in bringing themselves together.

The Gunboat "Tuscumbia."

This iron-clad vessel is rapidly approaching completion, and with all her armament aboard, will soon be ready to sail to any point indicated by Commodore Porter.

The *Tuscumbia* is one among the largest vessels in the Western fleet. In strength of timbers, imperviousness of her coat of iron mail, staunchness of build and completeness of outfit, she will rank among the very best of the iron-clads yet built. Her length is 182 feet, breadth of beam 70 feet, depth of hold 8 feet. She will draw 5½ feet of water with all her armament, stores, coal, &c., aboard.

Her machinery is of superior finish and extraordinary strength, and is all below the iron-clad deck, and is constructed upon an entirely new plan, lately approved and adopted by the navy. She has two cylinders, 30 inches in diameter, 6 feet stroke, working two powerful side-wheels 25 feet in diameter 12 feet bucket. She is also supplied with two other cylinders, 20 inches stroke, working two screw propellers 6 feet 6 inches in diameter. She is furnished with two small engines for working the capstan, one forward and the other aft. She has six 28-foot boilers 40 inches in diameter, with five flues each, with an auxiliary pumping engine for filling the boilers. By her pumps the vessel could be flooded in a short time.

The *Tuscumbia* has, in addition to her armament, an apparatus for throwing hot water, capable of ejecting a scalding stream to a distance of 200 feet. The armament consists of three 11-inch Dahlgren guns, in battery, forward, and two 100-pounder rifled guns, in battery, aft. The iron plating on the batteries or gun-rooms is six inches in thickness forward and four inches thick aft. The sides of the vessel are plated with 3 inch wrought iron; the deck with 1-inch wrought iron.

The cost of the *Tuscumbia* will be about \$250,000. Her magazines are provided with an apparatus by which they can be completely flooded in the short space of one minute. A bulwark of iron, loop-holed for musketry is placed around her guards. Her speed will be about twelve miles an hour against the current. She will be manned by 150 marines. Her custom-house measurement is 980 tons.

The *Tuscumbia's* engines and machinery were made by the well-known firm of McCord & Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Umbrella Thieves foiled at Last.

The wise man when out of doors invariably carries his umbrella; he trusts not to the promise of fair skies, nor heeds the whisperings of laziness which suggest that he is encumbering himself unnecessarily; but in foul weather or in fair, he may be seen armed and equipped against atmospheric phenomena of all kinds. To be wise in this respect, however, is a costly virtue, now-a-days; for wheresoever man goeth, there are thieves, and there seems to be a class of these gentry who prey especially upon the umbrellas of society, and who, regardless of expense (to other people) pursue their calling industriously. They waylay mankind in hotels and in boarding-houses, in ballrooms, in barber's shops—in every locality where, haply, they may find an umbrella, they penetrate and despoil. Their days are over, their occupation is gone; lost are all the silken and cotton opportunities for plunder; vanished are the chances for acquiring portable property that once abounded so greatly. The umbrella is no longer a despised and neglected part of man's appurtenances, but has its proper place and position assigned to it. Foote's Patent Umbrella Stand is the agent which secures to us the inalienable right of doing as we please with our own property; and we can intrust our umbrella to its care, conscious that when we return it will be found unmolested. The apparatus in question is made of iron cast in various styles, and is highly ornamental in appearance. By an exceedingly simple and ingenious device, which cannot be described clearly without engravings, the umbrellas are locked up so that there is no possibility of their being stolen, unless, indeed, the gentleman who has a passion for umbrellas, chooses to carry off a hundred pounds or so of iron in his disgraceful flight. As we have previously remarked, there are different sizes and styles of these

convenient stands, from those sold for a dollar, adapted to but one, up to those with twenty-eight apertures, capable of accommodating a like number of umbrellas; and we think that henceforth he who is without one of these necessary additions to his house or counting-room will display a recklessness, in regard to his umbrella, which would be properly punished by having it stolen. This stand is an article of universal utility, and is for sale by the Wheeler & Wilson Manufacturing Company, whose office and salesroom are at No. 505 Broadway, New York City.

THE NEW LAW OF "ABANDONMENT."

We desire to remind our inventive friends who may happen to have incompleting applications of long standing still pending at the Patent Office, that the new law, which brings such cases into the class of "abandoned inventions," will begin to take practical effect on the 2d of March, 1863. The law was passed March 2d, 1861, and section 12 reads as follows:—

"And be it further enacted, That all applications for patents shall be completed and prepared for examination within two years after the filing of the petition, and in default thereof they shall be regarded as abandoned by the parties thereto, unless it be shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Patents that such delay was unavoidable, and all applications now pending shall be treated as if filed after the passage of this act."

In matters which relate to obtaining patents, delays are often dangerous. Let all who have pending applications complete them at once, and thus relieve themselves of all liability to loss.

Professional Courtesy.

We are publishing from time to time a series of illustrated articles, on the principal industrial interests of the loyal States. These articles are written by us at an expense of much time and money, and present faithful pictures of all the operations peculiar to the subject discussed. We are very glad to have these articles copied, but we suggest that those who do so should not omit to credit the source from which the information is obtained. We are brought to these reflections by seeing a verbatim reprint of our article on the "Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine" (published on pages 1, 2, and 3, present volume of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN) in a Canadian journal, the editor of which has overlooked the customary courtesy.

REDEMPTION OF THE SOILED STAMPS.—The postage stamps formerly in use by the community, as currency, are being redeemed by the Government, through the Post-office Department, as rapidly as possible, and many ludicrous scenes naturally occur during the hours allotted for the reception of them. One day last week two individuals were seen on their way to the post-office in this city, with a huge bag containing \$8,400 worth of the sticky tender. The bag held about a bushel of the stamps, and was altogether quite a formidable purse; it was the property of the Eighth Avenue Railroad Company. The history of each of these little bits of paper would be curious reading.

PAPER made from the swamp flag, called "cat tails," is now manufactured upon a somewhat extensive scale in this State, and the demand for it is greater than can be supplied. We have examined a sample of this product, and it appears to be well adapted for card-board and paper-hangings, for which purposes it is now used.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS, ATTENTION!—Exportations of British machinery are increasing. India and Australia are the best customers of the English iron manufacturers. The value of the steam-engines shipped in the first ten months of 1862 was £1,288,000, being an increase of more than £200,000 on the previous year. During the same period the foreign expenditure on English telegraphic wire and apparatus rose from £171,000 to £246,000.

TELEGRAPH LINE TO THE HOLY CITY.—It is reported that the Syrian telegraph is already in operation as far as Ourfa, at the top of the Desert, beyond the Euphrates, and a branch line will soon be extended to Aleppo, Damascus and Beyrout, from which latter station a line will run north to Joppa and Jerusalem. Travelers in the East may therefore soon order apartments in Jerusalem by telegraph.